

KANSAS AGITATOR

GARNETT KANSAS

A green Christmas would be welcomed this year.

Hawaii has absorbed the American idea. Her treasurer has skipped.

Possibly we could trade off our coal strike for a South American revolution.

It is not unlikely that the north pole will have to wait a few days for that \$200,000.

It easy enough to be popular. Just announce that you have \$20 that you want to lend.

If our returning arctic explorers will kindly cut out the lecture sequel all will be forgiven.

"Would you for Five Million?" is the name of one of the new plays. Is it necessary to ask?

How many people did you meet yesterday who didn't say something about the coal strike?

It would take a most forgiving person to heap coals on anybody's head at present prices.

Duke Boris's brother Cyril is coming to this country. These are happy days for the chorus ladies.

Perhaps the America cup will be raced for in aeroyachts if Sir Thomas likes his trip across the channel.

Grand Duke Boris denies that he drank from a Chicago girl's slipper. Perhaps it was her rubber he used.

The hemp cure for consumption has been discovered at Manila. If properly applied hemp will cure anything.

The Chinese Boxers are being led by a woman. The old empress dowager must be out leading a strenuous life.

Count Boni de Castellane has just bought a chateau in France. The Gould roads have been making money lately.

Prince Henry of Prussia is desirous of coming to the United States again, but this time he wants to shoot a lion, not to be one.

The university students who painted a freshman with iodine must have a peculiar idea of what constitutes real, good fun.

It's a mean and local jealousy that induces the New York courts to discredit the justly celebrated Chicago brand of divorce.

A Polish giant named Jabinski is said to be 7 feet high. He seems to be entitled to the persimmons. Longest Pole, you know.

The married woman in Buffalo, aged 101, who says that she has never been angry would probably say also that she never told a lie.

The captain general of Catalonia and the editor of a Madrid newspaper fought a duel, but they chose firearms, so neither was hurt.

The Boston physician who says that the recent cold summer has been "painfully healthy" apparently speaks with a good deal of feeling.

The case of Henry M. Bennett, the Pittsburg millionaire, makes it more apparent than ever that it's a wise millionaire who knows who will be his widow.

It is pitiful to think of the grief that will overwhelm May Yohe and her Put if it really turns out at this late date that they are not legally married.

A Connecticut octogenarian is said to have contracted his twelfth matrimonial engagement. This would evidently appear to be his especially steady habit.

It is natural that the Indiana woman who made angel food for a man should have won him for a husband. There is an implied compliment in giving a man angel food that is almost irresistible.

A traveling salesman from Chicago caught afire in bed in a St. Louis hotel the other night, presumably from spontaneous combustion, as he swore he hadn't been smoking and had not lighted a match.

St. Paul girl clerks have interworn that they will not be pop-corned, kissed, hugged or wedded by any but men holding "labor union cards. Now Cupid is in for the funniest time of his long and eventful life.

Policeman arrested a man for no other reason than that he was pounding himself on the head with a rock. Looks like unwarranted interference with a citizen's pursuit of happiness, in defiance of the constitution.

Behold what a great fire a little matter kindleth. The Greeks and Latins are at war over the question of sweeping the church steps in Jerusalem, and a French ambassador has just been deprived of his office for permitting his wife to wear her hat at a fashionable breakfast.

SOME TARIFF FACTS

HOW PROTECTION SHELTERS GREAT MONOPOLIES.

If You Like Them Vote the Republican, High Tariff, High Prices Ticket, And get All You Want—Note the Figures Given.

Tin Plate Trust—Formed December, 1898; price of tin plate advanced from \$2.80 per box in November, 1898, to \$4.84 in December, 1899; present price at home \$4.19; to foreigners, \$3.19; duty, \$1.50 per box.

Steel and Wire Trust—Formed January, 1899; price of wire nails advanced from \$1.37 per keg in December, 1898, to \$3.53 in December, 1899; present price at home \$2.05; to foreigners, \$1.30; duty ½ cent or more per pound. Price of barbed wire advanced from \$1.82 per 100 pounds in December, 1898, to \$4.13 in December, 1899; present price \$2.90; export price \$2.25; duty, 1.9-20 cents per pound.

Window Glass Trust—Formed in October, 1899; price of single firsts, 6x8 to 10x15 advanced from \$1.40 per box (50 sq. ft.) in July, 1895, to \$2.80 in October, 1899, and to \$4.80 in April, 1901; present price about \$4.56; duty, 1½ to 3 cents per pound averages about 100 per cent.

Plate Glass Trust—Formed in 1882 and consolidated with jobbers in 1899 or 1900; prices on principal sizes advanced 150 per cent from April, 1893, to August, 1900; price 5 to 10 feet April, 1898, 24 cents per square foot; August, 1900, 60 cents; duty on 5 to 10 foot, 10 to 22½ cents per square foot.

Shovel Trust—Formed in August, 1901, but price-fixing agreements existed before; prices advanced on Ames No. 2 from \$7.45 per dozen in January, 1896, to \$7.93 in July, 1896; to \$8.69 in July, 1899; to \$9.12 in January, 1900, which is the present price; export price about 30 per cent below the present home price; duty, 45 per cent.

Linseed Oil Trust—Formed in December, 1898; price of raw linseed oil advanced from 29 cents per gallon in July, 1897, to 41 cents in January, 1898; to 50 cents in January, 1900; to 65 cents in July, 1900; to 82 cents in July, 1901; declined to 67 cents in July, 1902; duty 20 cents per gallon.

Salt Trust—Formed in March, 1899, and became a world trust in 1901; price of coarse salt at Buffalo advanced from \$2.50 per ton in 1897 to \$4 in 1899, to \$4.50 in 1900 and to \$5.70 in 1901; fine salt advanced from 71½ cents per barrel in 1897, to \$1.56 in 1901; present prices but little lower; duty 8 to 12 cents per 100 pounds.

Borax Trust—Formed in 1890 and became a world trust in 1899; price of borax 8½ cents per pound in 1891; reduced to 8 cents in 1894; to 5½ cents in 1895; to 5 cents in 1896; advanced to 6 cents in October, 1897; to 7 cents in February, 1898; to 7½ cents in 1899; to 8 cents in 1900; price since, 7½ to 8 cents; duty, 5 cents per pound until 1894, then 2 cents until August, 1897; then 5 cents again. Trust exports borax from this country to England and other countries and sells it there for 2 to 5 cents per pound; present price in England, 2½ cents.

Sugar Trust—Formed in 1887 and reformed in 1891; it has kept the margin between raw and refined sugar up to the tariff limit, and much greater than before the trust was formed, although the cost of refining has declined; it has dictated or directed tariff legislation with plenty of "differential" or protection on refined sugar; its profits are about \$25,000,000 a year; the duty of 2½ cents per pound (including the countervailing duty of 31 of a cent) increases the cost of living to the average family \$7.50 a year; with no duty on it sugar would sell for 2 to 2½ cents per pound, the canning and preserving industry would become very profitable, millions of bushels of fruit now wasted would find a profitable market, and jams, jellies and marmalades would furnish wholesome and cheap food for the people.

The Steel Trust.
The United States Steel corporation is the greatest industrial giant on earth. It has an outstanding capital of \$1,319,000,000. Its controlled and "community-of-interest" companies bring the capitalization to \$1,605,000,000.

It owns four-fifths of the iron ore mines of the Northwest, all of the Connellsville coking coal mines, operates 1,000 miles of railroads and transports 10,000,000 tons of ore on its own vessels.

It produces three-fourths of our steel product, or more than is produced by any other country than the United States.

Its first year's product was stated to be worth \$410,000,000, and it paid \$113,000,000 in wages, or \$712 each for its 158,263 employees.

Its first year's net profits were over \$111,000,000, and its net profits for this year are expected to reach \$140,000,000 or \$150,000,000.

Thus the comparatively few owners get more net profits than its 158,000 employees get wages.

It is reputed to pay its president a salary of \$1,000,000 a year.

It exports its goods to all parts of the world, and sells them abroad, according to the testimony of President Schwab, at "very much lower rates than those here."

It is feared abroad because of its low prices; and here, because of its high prices and its dictatorial and bulldozing methods.

It dictates prices, terms and conditions.

under which those manufacturers dependent upon it for raw material can do business. They must buy only of it, must ship only over its railroads and must finance their accounts only in its banks. Often they must sell their finished products at maximum prices fixed by the trust.

It is a trust both in the popular and in the legal meaning of the word, according to eminent lawyers, for it holds as a trustee the shares of the constituent companies, and votes for directors of these companies.

It sells steel rails here for \$28 a ton and abroad for \$16 to \$22.

It sells barbed wire to us at \$2.90 per 100 pounds and to foreigners at \$2.25.

It sells tin plate to us at \$4.19 per 100 pounds and to foreigners at \$3.19. It sells wire nails to us at \$2.05 per 100 pounds and to foreigners at \$1.30. It sells wire rope to us at \$2.80 per 100 feet which it sells to foreigners at 72 cents.

Its export and home prices on other goods show similar difference, and always in favor of the foreigners.

Based partly upon these differences in prices and partly upon the imports or competing goods, after paying the tariff duties, the tariff profits of this trust are \$75,000,000 a year.—Byron W. Holt.

Hanna's Pregnant Question.
"Where are you going to begin revising the tariff?" That is what Senator Hanna asks.

To show how hard the question is he goes on to say that the tariff is a local issue, as a distinguished Pennsylvanian said years ago. Each locality wants its own special product protected, but is quite willing to have free trade in everything else. It follows that if we begin to revise at any point up will come a vigorous protest from somewhere. By the time we have progressed to enough points to amount to a revision worth speaking of we will have protests enough coming to stop the entire performance.

There is too much truth in this. But the very fact that it is next to impossible to accomplish anything like a general revision for the reason pointed out, puts the badness of the protective system in about the strongest possible light.

It brings to view the fact that the whole system is an enormous trust—a combine of all the interests that can possibly be promoted by tariff duties to bleed all the interests that cannot be so promoted.

Ought the American people to lie down because the evil is so vast and so powerfully supported by the favored classes and say it is idle to attempt to do away with it? Not if they have the stuff in them that so many are bragging about these days—the stuff that is needed to rule the world.

If we permit ourselves to be overmastered by a giant evil we prove that we lack the power of world mastery.

Why the Swing Around?

President Roosevelt's abandoned speaking tour suggests the question. Why should a President or a Presidential candidate bear the fatigue and incur the risks of a speaking tour, which even at its best is an inferior method of communicating his views to the public? What is the secret of this curious survival of the oratorical fiction, the arduous and hazardous speaking tour by special train, with its attendant hurrah and hysterics, that mean little and accomplish nothing? Perhaps the answer to it is that the personal flattery of such pilgrimages, the dramatic delight of posing as orators and hearing the hip-hip-hooray of cheering crowds make an appeal to their vanity too strong to be resisted.

Postponing the Inevitable.

Confessedly Senator Spooner of Wisconsin, carries as level a head upon his shoulders as any Republican leader in any of the states. There is no abler man in the party. This gives unusual significance to the fact that he will voice the western demand for tariff revision and stake his re-election to the senate upon the hazard involved in the support of that policy. The only weakness in the position of Senator Spooner arises from the favor with which he regards the appointment of a tariff commission as a first step toward revision.

Beginning to See Light.

A protectionist newspaper in Boston has come slowly around to the view that there are several things in the Dingley tariff that might be wisely revised. Among other things it mentions the duty on bituminous coal. After this little kindergarten beginning the Boston tariff champion may eventually be brought to recognition of the iniquity of a duty of nearly 100 per cent on the woolen clothing of the American people.

Shaw's Bad Precedent.

In commenting on Secretary Shaw's attempt to "liberate the reserves" the New York World says: "No one doubts Mr. Shaw's singleness of purpose, but the way of financial error is 'paved with good intentions.' What is to prevent the precedent of a broken law from being used by a timid secretary to promote disaster that firmness might avert or even by a corrupt one for personal speculation?"

Signs Point Toward Reform.

Speaker Henderson has perceived the gathering storm as President McKinley in his last speech showed that he saw it. It is now the question whether the disease can be treated with palliatives, as Mr. Roosevelt suggests—such as reciprocity treaties and other concessions.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

LATEST JESTS EVOLVED BY THE FUNMAKERS.

Sweet Girl's Neat Retort to Short-Tempered Lover—Why He Regretted Hearing the Minister—Children Have Fun Playing Daniel.

Domestic Point of View.

If there was anything upon which Mrs. Upjohn prided herself it was her coffee. It was always rich, black and strong, and she trusted the making of it to none but her own fair hands.

This is why the visitors in the parlor, from whose presence she had excused herself for a few moments, distinctly heard through the partly open door the loud, horrified voice of the kitchen girl:

"Fer goodness' sake, ma'am, you're not goin' to feed the company on the horrid black stuff you drink yourself, are ye?"

Just Engaged, Too!
(Why do girls do this sort o' thing?)



He (savagely)—Fah! It's no use arguing with a fool.
She (sweetly)—But I wasn't arguing with you, dear?

One of the Social Troubles.
"I'm dreadfully worried about Jennie," she said.

"Why?" he asked.
"Well, she's just learning to write, and it's impossible to tell whether the round hand, back hand or the angular style will be fashionable when she is ready to 'come out' in society."

Indeed, the problems that beset the modern mother are more serious than careless man realizes.

His Rights.
"Say, you!" yelled old Hunks to the boy next door. "Take your beastly kite away! You're flying it over my house."

"Do you own the atmosphere above your house?" demanded the boy.

"No, you young brascal!" snorted old Hunks. "I don't own any of the atmosphere, but I own the space above my house, all the way up."

Still a Hoodoo.

Imogene—You needn't tell me opals bring bad luck. The one in my ring dropped out while I was feeding the chickens in the back yard the other day. A hen gobbled it up. We killed her, and I not only recovered my opal, but had chicken pie for dinner.

Belinda—Well, it was unlucky for the chicken, wasn't it?

His Little Joke.

In an effort to push the missive clear into one of the patent mail boxes she had got her fingers caught. He watched her efforts to extricate them.

"Beware," he said, "of the mailed hand."

When she got him home he was sorry he had said it.

Something Doing.

Stern Father—So you want to marry my daughter, eh?
Young Man—You have said it.
Stern Father—What's your salary?
Young Man—Oh, I'm not particular. Just give me a trial for three months, and if I fail to give satisfaction as a son-in-law you needn't pay me any salary. See?

The Reason.



New Pop—Ever hear our minister? **Henpeck—**Once, and I've always regretted it.

New Pop—Tiresome sermon, eh? **Henpeck—**No. He officiated at my wedding.

Playing "Daniel."
Mother—Why, children, what's all this noise about?

Little Freddy—We've had grandpa and Uncle Henry locked in the cupboard for an hour, an' when they get a little angrier I'm going to play going into the lions' cage.—Spare Moments.

If people stopped to count the microbes in a kiss, they would often fail to find the trouble they are hunting for.

LABOR NOTES

THE PESSIMIST.

There goes the man we would not meet,
He's always looking for defeat—
The Pessimist.

No faith in any one has he;
No good in fellow-man can see,
This Pessimist.

He sacrifices friends and health
In striving for great fame or wealth,
The Pessimist.

The widow and the fatherless
No help receive in their distress
From Pessimist.

Selfish, and wrapped in worldly care.

Shunned by glad childhood everywhere,
Is Pessimist.

His troubles all are met half-way;
At life's high noon he's worn and gray—
The Pessimist.

Old age, no hope or courage finds;
In midst of doubt his sun declines—
Poor Pessimist.

These lines shall not have missed their aim
If from the many we reclaim
One Pessimist.
—Mrs. A. B. in New York Mail and Express.

MOST PROSPEROUS ORDER

The International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths was organized in Atlanta, Ga., in 1889, but it was not till 1897 that it obtained a firm foothold. It took a prominent part in the nine-hour strike of last year, with fair success, some important concessions being gained. The nine-hour movement, begun last year, has resulted in great and material benefit to the organization, and has made possible the existence of many nine-hour contracts this year which could not have been obtained under any other circumstances.

The ultimate aim of the organization is to improve the condition of every man in the blacksmith departments of railroad shops, shipyards, machine shops, and, in fact, all factories and workshops.

The organization is finely officered.

In 1898 Robert B. Kerr was chosen general secretary-treasurer, and his work has been so satisfactory that he has been re-elected annually by that prosperous labor organization.



Robert E. Kerr.

[General Secretary-Treasurer of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths.]

FIGHT TOBACCO TRUST

The cigarmakers' union of Chicago are in high feather over the action of the so-called cigar trust in purchasing at high prices the leases for certain good corner stores in which to open retail stores and there compete with the old-established stores, many of which refuse to handle many of the so-called "popular" brands of cigars, extensively advertised on billboards and vacant walls. It is asserted that most of these brands of cigars are made by child and cheap labor in penal institutions, and that the combine is forced to go into the retail market as a matter of self-protection to dispose of their product, which is accumulating and for which no market can be found.

One official high up in the cigarmakers' union said recently that the re-

tail cigar dealers in Chicago, New York, Cincinnati, St. Louis and other large cities had formed an organization for the purpose of refusing to handle the product of the combine, and that the cigarmakers' unions all over the country were aiding these retailers. Their motto is to handle nothing but union-made goods from independent manufacturers, and thereby crush a mammoth enemy to both unions and small dealers. Many of the druggists in the large cities have joined with the union in crushing out trust cigars. Even the big jobbers are said to feel the results of the agitation begun by organized labor, and many of them are said to be curtailing their stocks or endeavoring to secure union-made cigars as a "side line," in order to appease their customers.

KEEP UP WAGE SCALE

The contention of the Socialists that the rate of wages is kept above the mere living point by trade unionists is borne out by some figures just given out by United States Commissioner of Labor Carroll D. Wright, says the Social Democratic Herald. It continues: "Under what has been called the 'iron law' of wages, labor is subject to the competition of the overplus of workers for the more or less limited number of opportunities to work afforded under the capitalistic system. Trade

unionism has not only kept wages higher for organized workers, but through its agitations and its effect on public sentiment it has kept the standard of wages for nonunion men higher also. The trade unions must be given credit for the ability of the worker to pay the higher cost of living.

"It is incontrovertible that the unions oblige capitalism to pay higher rates of wages than it would otherwise have to. So it is small wonder that capitalism hates the unions."

INSIST ON AGREEMENT

The Chicago stock yards teamsters gave Swift & Co. a practical demonstration that the agreement made after the last strike was made with a view of being observed. The company has again agreed to live up to the contract it made some time ago. Probably it will not be necessary to remind the company by another strike

that it has an agreement with the drivers, and then again it may. One good feature of the last settlement is that the bulldozing barn foreman was removed to another department, where he can annoy nonunion men. There is no better incentive for men to organize than to have a bulldozing official over them.

CONDITIONS IN JAPAN

There are about 80,000 cotton operatives in Japan, chiefly in Osaka, according to our Yokohama correspondent, of whom 60,000 are women. The factories are very primitive as far as health appliances are concerned and consumption is rife.

The boarding-in system is largely adopted, and the workpeople are crowded together in the most awful fashion. As many as thirty-four have been seen sleeping in one room. Some children are paid a penny a day.—London Express.

EVIL OF CHILD LABOR

The cry for the protection of children is not the cry of a section, but of humanity. Every new manufacturing community has to face this temptation to exploit child labor. England had the struggle years ago. The northern manufacturing states have

been compelled to make increasingly strict laws to protect their children and now the great development of the south makes the question an issue there, which should be settled right before vast numbers of children are ruined.

CAN NOT DISCRIMINATE

The Central Federated Union of New York sent a communication to the Board of Aldermen asking them to have the commissioner of public works insert a clause that only mem-

bers of trades unions be employed. The board passed a resolution to that effect, but the law department rendered an opinion that it is class legislation and cannot be enforced.

BULLETINS ARE GOOD

The bimonthly bulletins of the department of labor are interesting and valuable. While labor leaders may differ with Carroll D. Wright, the commissioner, regarding plans of or-

ganization, the reports issued under his direction are recognized as authority and from a statistical point of view alone are invaluable to every student of the industrial conditions.

IRON MOLDERS ENJOINED

Iron molders in Marietta, Pa., who have been on strike since last June have been enjoined from yelling "scab" at the nonunion workmen. It was shown in court that the union

molders had been guilty of offering to pay a nonunion man his wages if he would stay out of the plant. This was sufficient and the injunction was at once granted.